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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

**REVIEW OF REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AFFECTED AFRICAN COUNTRY
PARTIES, INCLUDING ON THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS AND ON EXPERIENCES
GAINED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES**

Addendum

**COMPILATION OF SUMMARIES AS PRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL
REPORTS SUBMITTED BY AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES***

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of the Parties, by its decisions 11/COP.1 and 5/COP.2, requested the secretariat to prepare a report based on the information contained in national reports, to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its third session. Only African country Parties are required to present their reports to COP.3.
2. Decision 11/COP.1 provided guidelines and procedures for organizing and presenting the national reports and required in particular a summary of the national reports, not exceeding six pages.
3. This document contains the summaries of national reports submitted by six African country Parties. The concerned countries are: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon. The secretariat will also make this compilation of summaries of national reports available on the Convention's Website (www.unccd.de) for wider circulation.

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ALGERIA

I. Introduction

This report was prepared by Algeria, a party to the Convention, in response to decisions 11/COP.1 (Rome 1997) and 5/COP.2 (Dakar 1998) concerning procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which was ratified by Algeria in May 1996 and entered into force on 26 December 1996.

This report, drawn up in keeping with the template laid down by CCD, describes the state of progress in implementing the Convention and the efforts made by Algeria in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

Within its 2.4 million square kilometres, Algeria contains major biogeographical units, namely the Tell zone, characterized by a Mediterranean climate of the dry subhumid type, which is subject to the phenomenon of erosion; the steppe zone, with an arid and semi-arid climate, facing desertification, and lastly the Saharan zone, which accounts for 80 per cent of the country and has a desert climate.

This wide variety of landscapes and biotopes is affected by widespread degradation which entails harmful consequences, both ecological and socio-economic.

In the face of this widespread degradation, Algeria has undertaken a set of strategic, institutional and regulatory actions and measures since the 1970s to halt or at least attenuate the effects of this desertification.

Where strategies and policies for sustainable development are concerned, it should be emphasized that Algeria has 7 million hectares of usable agricultural area, constituting a mere 3 per cent of its land area. This usable agricultural area amounts to 0.32 hectares per inhabitant, a figure which is steadily diminishing as a result of population growth and the loss of agricultural soils caused by phenomena of degradation.

In this context, a strategy for protection and development generated a variety of sectoral plans which will need to be brought into line with the national environmental action plan and the national blueprint for physical planning.

The national reforestation plan, drawn up in 1998, is designed to extend forest cover over 1,250,000 hectares over 20 years and raise the forest cover ratio from the current 11 per cent to 13 per cent by the year 2020.

This plan basically covers the development of the existing forests, commercial reforestation for timber production, reforestation for protective purposes along catchment basin perimeters to combat erosion, extension of the green barrier as a part of efforts to combat desertification and amenity reforestation in population centres, especially in the Sahara.

The National Plan to Combat Desertification

The national plan, which has been in the process of implementation since 1987, falls within the framework of the various programmes for development of the steppe zones, and aims at intensification and extension of the green barrier project through restriction of mechanized ploughing in potential farming areas (Dayas) in the context of development, the reconstitution of the degraded forests of the Saharan Atlas through large-scale reforestation, the closing off of degraded areas for the purpose of reconstituting the pasture cover and the creation of infrastructure for opening up the marginalized zones.

The Strategy for the Preservation of Biodiversity

Environmental impacts have not always been taken into account in socio-economic development. Starting in the 1980s, Algeria became aware of this important dimension and implemented a policy for the preservation of eco-biological resources aiming in particular at preserving sites hosting unique or fragile ecosystems and protecting rare or endangered species.

In order to identify its resource endowment, Algeria embarked on a national inventory of biological diversity in 1997.

To that end, ten (10) national parks and five (5) nature reserves which are representative of the country's various ecosystems have been established. This policy is buttressed by international commitments. It foreshadows a national strategy in keeping with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity which is under preparation.

The National Environmental Action Plan

Under the first phase of the national environmental action plan, which is being drawn up, a detailed diagnosis of the state of the environment in Algeria was carried out and the direct and indirect causes of the deterioration noted were identified.

Under the second phase, a national action programme will be drawn up on the basis of the diagnosis, and the costs and benefits of the various options will be evaluated.

The National Programme of Scientific Research and Technological Development

This programme, whose outline was set out in law No. 98-11 of 22 August 1998, is composed of 30 national research programmes, including a programme relating to desertification and the development of arid and semi-arid zones.

The socio-economic objectives of this programme relate to self-sufficiency in the arid and semi-arid zones and their complete integration in the process of national economic development.

The scientific objectives relate to regional climate assessment, a precise and up-to-date inventory of natural resources, regular geographical monitoring, assessment of processes of erosion and degradation of arid and semi-arid environments, determination of the potentialities of these

environments, description of surface conditions using space-based techniques, development of treatment methods, analysis of these environments, the establishment of databases.

The expected outcomes of this programme include:

Constitution of a national research system based on the Centre for Scientific and Technical Research on Arid Regions;

- Strengthening the existing human scientific potential, which remains poor despite the existence of thirteen (13) operational research units composed of establishments of higher education and training, research centres, research institutions and bodies falling in the commercial sector (INRAA, INRF, ONM, INCT, CDARS, etc);
- The establishment of an intersectoral national network based on the Centre for Scientific and Technical Research on Arid Regions and its linking to international networks (AFRICAGIS, AFRICAEIS, etc.);
- Training, in the search for trainers and upgrading of supervision of personnel in charge of implementation of desertification control activities.

The New Physical Planning Policy

This policy, which was initiated in the 1980s, with the establishment of the Ministry of Planning and Land Use Management, the launching of the national blueprint and regional blueprints for land use management, has not been fully finalized.

In 1987, the Land Use Management Act was promulgated.

Since 1994, the Ministry for Equipment and Physical Planning has striven to refine the new policy and instruments for its implementation in the light of the country's socio-economic evolution. Its sphere of action covers the balanced development of the entire country through readjustment of its constituent infrastructure, the protection and rational use of its resources and the sound development of the potentialities of its various areas.

The physical planning blueprint (to the year 2020), which is scheduled to be launched in 1999, is also designed to incorporate and harmonize all the national plans and blueprints, including the plans due to be drawn up in the environmental field.

Where the steppe zones are concerned, the studies of the geographical areas which are to be designated as concessions are to be refined, an inventory of resources is to be drawn up and the urban framework is to be reorganized so as to arrive at consistent blueprints for planning and sustainable development. Lastly, machinery which will stimulate the promotion of public and private investment, especially in SMEs/SMIs, will be devised and set up.

The Water Policy and Strategy

Potential renewable water resources in Algeria are estimated at 15 billion cubic metres, 80 per cent of which is surface water and 20 per cent underground. The south (Sahara) possesses for the most part reserves of exploitable connate water amounting to 5 billion cubic metres per year.

The major thrust of action by the authorities is to supply the public with drinking water and sanitation in the light of their direct impacts on public health and economic and social development. This policy has produced a connection ratio of 87 per cent in urban centres and 74 per cent in rural areas.

In irrigation, the State operates in large estates and private initiative in small-scale and medium-scale water development.

This being the case, supply continues to fall below declared requirements. Consequently the new policy is aimed at better control of management, demand, protection of water resources against pollution and above all control of leakage rates, which are to be reduced from 40 per cent to 20 per cent. For this purpose, a water code was adopted in 1996 and a dam construction programme which, by the year 2020, should enable all mobilizable water resources to be mobilized.

II. Institutional Measures Taken to Implement the Convention

The policies for desertification control and conservation of natural resources are the responsibility of the State. The implementation of this policy and the related programmes is the task of the specialist machinery, establishments of higher education and training, research centres, local communities, and organizations in civil society, each in its own sphere of competence.

In this context, the institutions and bodies involved are:

The national coordinating body established under a ministerial order of 15 June 1998, whose principal task is to ensure intersectoral coordination, in the drawing up and implementation of the national plan of action.

The sectoral institutions, an institutional and organizational framework, responsible for the drawing up, implementation and follow-up of the desertification control programmes, are:

- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, whose principal function is to handle international activities undertaken by Algeria in the context of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In this way, it plays a preponderant role, alongside the various national bodies involved in desertification control, in making preparations at the national level for the conferences of the States parties to the convention and in organizing subregional, regional or international workshops and forums falling within the framework of the implementation of the convention. A subdirectorate has been

set up for this purpose as an interface between the national bodies and international institutions dealing with the environment;

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, through the Directorate-General for Forests (focal point for the Convention), is the institution responsible for drawing up and applying the policy for preventing efforts to combat all kinds of degradation of the natural environment (fauna, flora, soil, etc.) and implementing sustainable development activities. It is buttressed by the following specialist structures:

- The National Agency for Nature Protection;

The Office of the High Commissioner for Development of the Steppe;

The National Institute of Agronomy Research;

The Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Agriculture in Saharan Regions;

The Ministry of the Interior, Local Communities and the Environment, which is responsible, under the secretary of State for the environment, for defining, guiding and coordinating the policy for environmental management and protection.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The Ministry of Higher Education, aware of the fact that the effectiveness of the machinery for handling research in the field of desertification is linked, on the one hand, to its capacity for national technical and scientific mobilization and its ability to develop a trend towards exchanges and partnership, operates through its research centres, notably the centre for scientific and technical research on the arid regions, and its intersectoral national network for thematic research made up of the university institutions and training.

The Ministry of Transport: through the national meteorological office, this department is a partner with a special role in the exchange of data with all the partners involved in efforts to combat desertification;

The Ministry of Land Use Planning operates in the establishment of national blueprints for land use planning and rural development.

The intermediary bodies

In order to ensure intersectoral coordination and participation by civil society, the following have been established:

- The Higher Council on the Environment and Sustainable Development, chaired by the Head of Government;

- The National Council of Scientific Research, also chaired by the Head of Government, and responsible inter alia for setting priorities among the national programmes and evaluating their implementation;
- The National Forest Council, established under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as a consultative body in the field of forestry policy and nature protection;
- The non-governmental organizations for nature protection (NGOs).

Under Act No. 90-31 on associations, adopted in 1990, 50,000 associations have been set up, and nearly 250 of them work in the field of the environment and nature protection.

In the context of the implementation of the convention, some 20 associations have established a National Network, the National Committee of Algerian NGOs, which is affiliated to the International Network of NGOs to combat desertification.

III. Legislative and regulatory framework

Algeria has long had legislative and regulatory instruments which govern the management, exploitation and protection of natural resources. They include:

- Act No. 83-03 on protection of the Environment, adopted in 1983;
- Act No. 83-18 on access to rural land ownership, adopted in 1983;
- Act No. 84-12, establishing a general regime governing Forests;
- Act No. 87-01 on land use planning;
- Act No. 90-25 on guidelines in matters of land ownership;
- Act No. 90-29 on town planning;
- Act No. 98-11 on the orientation of the five-year programme of scientific research and scientific development (1998-2002):
 - The water code, adopted in 1996;
 - The forest code, which is under preparation.

IV. Participatory process in support of the preparation of the action programme

The process of participation set in motion for the preparation of the national action plan relates to awareness creation and the involvement of the different sectors affected by the problems of desertification. The members of

the national coordinating body, who are completely committed and active, make major contributions, each in its own specific area, in the design of the national action plan.

But the objective is above all to involve the most remote populations in the country particularly affected by desertification.

Forums are organized at the local level in which the non-governmental organizations, the associations, the Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce, pastoralists and farmers have participated in an intensive and committed manner.

In this context, mention should be made of the two (2) forums in Tébessa on the occasion Of World Day to Combat Desertification (1994/1996), the two (2) meetings at Khenchela (1994/1995), the meeting in Ghardaia 1996, Béchar (Taghit 1998), the regional meeting of NGOs in Algiers (1998), and the meeting in Djelfa specifically on pastoralism (1996).

In addition, all the complaints and suggestions from the participants were taken into consideration in the preparation of the national action plan.

V. The consultative process

The action plan being prepared has already led to the formulation of a request to the CCD secretariat for a technical and financial contribution.

However, in the framework of the many programmes to combat the degradation of natural resources which Algeria has been carrying out for decades, many requests have been addressed to specialized international organizations and institutions (UNEP, UNDP, GEF, FAO, ADB, IDB, etc.), and to other financial institutions; none produced any results, except for the "El-Kala humid zone" development projects. A national forum concerning the national action plan will also be organized shortly, to which all these institutions will be invited.

VI. Measures adopted under the national action plan

As early as the 1970s Algeria launched the Green Barrier project, in view of the harmful consequences of desertification on the people and socio-economic infrastructure. Originally designed as a simple intensive reforestation and road infrastructure operation, up to the 1980s, this approach was rapidly dropped following a negative reaction on the part of the local populations, who witnessed grazing land shrinking in favour of forests. The strategy then adopted, from the 1980s onwards, on the basis of studies prepared for that purpose, made it possible to draw up a concept of development of the integrated type, in particular agro-silvo-pastoral. This concept takes into account public awareness creation, rangeland rehabilitation and intensification, development of land in potential zones with mobilization of water resources and construction of infrastructure for opening up remote areas. All these programmes are coordinated in order to consolidate them with other multisectoral activities.

VII. Financial allocations from the State budget

In Algeria, all programmes relating to the protection and development of natural resources are deemed to be of public benefit under the various pieces of legislation, and consequently all the funding is shouldered by the State budget.

In conclusion, it should be noted that Algeria has drawn up and implemented its plan to combat desertification since 1987.

This programme of action and the many studies dealing with the development and protection of natural resources will form the main foundation of the future national action plan, in which public participation will be given pride of place. The experience acquired in combating desertification has made it possible to pinpoint the causes of this phenomenon and the future activities should be on a large scale and should be placed in a perspective which is not only ecological but above all social and economic.

This is only possible through intensification of training and research with an indispensable contribution from international cooperation, which constitutes the appropriate framework for a partnership which will allow national capabilities to reach their objectives.

ANGOLA

The Government of Angola has elaborated and implemented economic and social development programmes with a triennial periodicity. In these programmes, and according to the actual situation, the priorities set by the Government are defined.

Parallel to that, as a result of the peace process, the Government submitted to the international community the Community Rehabilitation Programme (PRC) which aims among others to rehabilitate the rural infrastructure and resettle war refugees and displaced people.

The Government, following the UNCCD recommendations, has created the National Coordination Committee, where all the related sectors of the civil society, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies are represented. Despite the crises that have hit the country, the Government has allocated in its 1999 budget, funds to support activities of this Committee, and furnish the office with the essential means needed to run the project. In this manner, the Government prepared and submitted to potential donors the project of Capacity Building to assist the National Coordination Body to strengthen its role as leader of the NAP process.

Within the scope of some activities undertaken by the Government, some actions have been initiated, such as the approval of the Basic Environmental Law, the Water Law, the Fishing Law, and the revision of the economical legislation to accommodate the political changes taking place in Angola.

Particularly, the Ministry of Fishing and Environment has considered as priority its mandate in relation to Mother Nature: to conduct with success an educational and sensitization programme on environment on both a formal and informal basis. The Ministry of Education and Culture, civil society and the media have also supported this programme.

The Government of Angola has contacted the cooperating partners and submitted for funding the Kalahari-Namib and NAP assistance projects.

Between 1986 and 1990 the country suffered a catastrophic drought. In this period it lost many people and livestock, an experience which triggered the 1st National Forum on Drought and Desertification. The meeting recommended integrated management programmes and a participatory programme on both environment and natural resources.

In progress is the revision of legislation on government agencies and local authorities, and their empowerment to allow their participation at the local community level.

The NAP will benefit from local and international resources allocated through its facilitation body, the National Desertification Fund (NDF) which will be created under the scope of the implementation of the Convention in Angola.

The present needs with regard to cooperation issues relate to the technical assistance domain, for the installation of the National Coordination Committee, and the preparation of documents for the 1st National Forum on the NAP.

BENIN

In accordance with decision 11/COP.1, the Republic of Benin presents its first national report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD).

This report records progress in the implementation of the CCD since its ratification on 17 June 1996.

Drawing on the guidelines for the drafting of national reports for the CCD, this report falls into three parts:

- The situation of Benin as regards the provisions of the CCD;
- The state of implementation of the CCD: status of activities and prospects;
- Support from development partners for the implementation of the CCD and financial resources allocated under the national budget.

In connection with the first part, it is agreeable to note that, through the agency of various documents containing strategic guidance, national plans

and frameworks, Benin is in harmony with the global vision and objectives of the CCD. Indeed, matters could not be otherwise. Benin, an essentially agricultural country, is very concerned at the continuing degradation of its natural resources.

The second point indicates the great importance Benin attaches to the methodical, iterative and integrated preparation of its NAP/CD. The last phase of work on this important tool for combating desertification has been initiated. In this context, a first pre-project document was validated in December 1998 and the latest consultation reports demanded by the seminar held to validate this pre-project document are already available. These reports will be evaluated, finalized and returned before they are brought into line with the pre-project document, so that Benin's NAP/CD is available in October 1999, as stipulated by the seminar.

For Benin, the drawing up of the NAPs is a major opportunity to take stock of action carried out to reverse the adverse trend in natural resources and factors of production and prompt decision makers to set out clear-cut options on problem areas which involve bush fires, international transhumance, rural land ownership, etc. Benin's ambition is to make it an innovative framework serving as a reference in efforts to combat desertification and promote rural development.

The third part describes support from development partners to Benin in the implementation of the CCD. The provisional version of this report was examined in a nationwide consultation held under the auspices of CILSS. The observations and evaluation supplied by the Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee to Combat Desertification, the national coordinating body, led to the present final version.

BOTSWANA

Botswana is a landlocked country at the centre of southern Africa and shares borders with Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia and South Africa. The mean altitude above sea level is approximately 1,000 m and the country's total land area is 582,000 km². Much of the country is generally flat, with gentle undulations and occasional rocky outcrops.

The average annual rainfall varies from 250 mm in the extreme south-west to 650 mm in the extreme north-east. Almost all the rainfall occurs during the summer months, from October to April; the period from May to September is generally dry.

Most rainfall occurs in localized showers and thunderstorms, and its incidence is highly variable both in time and space.

Evaporation rates are high and range from 1.8 m to over 2.2 m annually for surface water. Meagre and highly variable rainfall, both in time and space, combined with high evapo-transpiration rates make Botswana a water-short country where drought is a recurring hazard.

Botswana's main natural resources are range and arable land, a large wildlife population, and a variety of known and promising occurrences of

minerals. Arable land is scarce. It is estimated that less than 5 per cent of Botswana's land area is cultivable. Much of the best arable land is found in the freehold farming areas in the east. The greater portion of the land is suited to extensive beef production. The economy of Botswana is dominated by the mineral sector which contributes about 34 per cent of the total GDP and agriculture only contributes 4.1 per cent. On average the GDP grew by 6 per cent for the entire post-independence period. Expressed in 1993/94 prices, annual per capita real GDP has grown from P1,682 in 1966 to P7,863 in 1994/95.

Despite the fact that Botswana is a middle-income economy, poverty still prevails particularly in the rural areas where income-generating opportunities are limited.

In Botswana, the Government has put in place a number of strategies that are geared towards sustainable development. These include strategies in the National Development Plans including the current NDP 8, National Conservation Strategy, Agenda 21 Implementation Plan, Community-Based Development Strategy for Rural Development and Community-Based Natural Resources Management Programme.

There are five broad issues covered in NDP 8, namely, economic diversification, employment creation, poverty eradication, population policy and rural development.

The plans and strategies meant to improve the standard of living by creation of employment opportunities and income generation are Financial Assistance Policy (FAP), Arable Lands Development Programme (ALDEP), and Labour-Based Drought Relief programmes. Between 1982 and 1996, FAP projects created 10,000 jobs in manufacturing and 2,500 jobs in non-traditional agriculture, accounting for 40 per cent of total employment in these areas.

The National Conservation Strategy which was set up in 1990 by an Act of Parliament calls for a comprehensive evaluation of all the economic, social and environmental implications of policies, programmes and projects before they are undertaken, to foster sustainable development. The Strategy also requires that all the sectoral Ministries, Departments, Local Authorities, Parastatals, etc. should in the course of their work show due regard for the conservation and enhancement of the environment in the interest of achieving sustainable development.

In line with principles 16 and 17 of Agenda 21, Botswana has a National Policy on Natural Resources Conservation and Development which calls for a comprehensive evaluation of all the economic, social and environmental implications of major policies, programmes and projects before they are implemented, to foster sustainable development.

The internalization of environmental costs in economic decision-making helps bring a system-wide perspective, a long-term view which underscores prevention, and a package of ecological practices that reinforce socio-economic development. Currently, the system of Environmental Impact Assessment is being legislated for and is intended to provide for the concept of Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The concept of the Strategic Environmental Assessment has been applied to the NDP 8 through an "Environment Audit" which identified, described and assessed the potential beneficial and adverse environmental consequences of the plan. The audit also identified possible measures to enhance the environmental benefits or to reduce or eliminate environmental disadvantages of the proposed actions and provided information to planners, decision makers, affected communities and other interested parties regarding the full range of environmental consequences of the development planning and implementation options.

In order to foster the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources and promote rural development through community participation as well as expand rural economic activities and reduce poverty, the Government of Botswana developed Community-Based Natural Resources Management Policy (CBNRMP) and Community-Based Strategy for Rural Development (CBSRD). The main objective of the CBNRMP is to promote and diversify economic development in the rural areas through the sustainable use of natural resources while the objective of the CBSRD is to introduce a more effective and sustainable approach to rural development by substantially increasing the role of community participation and community leadership structures in identifying their own economic needs and aspirations as well as formulating and implementing their own actions to address these.

As stated in the National Development Plan, sustainable use of natural resources for sustainable economic diversification has been and continues to be a national development objective. It is to this end that even before the Rio summit, Botswana had plans and strategies to combat desertification. These are found in the sectoral Ministries and include Agricultural Resources Board, Tribal Grazing Land Policy, Arable Lands Development Programme, Forestry, Energy, Education, Trade, Poverty eradication and National Settlement Policy.

The Agricultural Resources Board has in place several legislations to control bush fires and over-harvesting of natural resources. However, due in some cases to the dearth of baseline data, these legislations have not been effected.

In 1975, an integrated approach to planning and management of land resources was started to implement the Tribal Grazing Land Policy (TGLP). The policy enabled individuals or groups exclusive use of land. The hope was that individual tenure would ensure sustainable use of rangeland resources. To facilitate the implementation of the policy, appropriate planning and management systems such as Land Use Planning Groups were established at district level. At a national level, a Land Development Committee was established to coordinate national land use planning.

During the implementation of the TGLP, Government realized that there were deficiencies in the data or information on which to base planning and management decisions. This resulted in the hatching out of several initiatives particularly by the Ministry of Agriculture to map soils and develop land evaluation methodologies, which assisted in the determination of land suitability.

Arable Lands Development Programme (ALDEP) was conceived in 1977 to tackle the problem of low productivity in arable agriculture, resulting from low-yielding traditional farming practices, low farm income, low employment levels and lack of necessary draught power to timely do ploughing and planting. The programme is focused on smallholder farmers, especially the poorest. Its objectives are to increase arable production with a view to reducing the food grain deficit and achieving food security in the long run; enhance rural development and welfare by raising arable incomes through improved agricultural productivity and to improve income distribution by concentrating on smallholder farmers; and create productive and remunerative employment in the rural areas in order to absorb the rural-underemployment migration.

In 1996, about 39,541 farming households out of the targeted 44,000 had benefited from the programme. Although there is a dearth of information to support the contribution of ALDEP towards poverty alleviation, changes in rural social relationships indicate the ALDEP has elevated the socio-economic status of the poor and empowered them to have control of their production activities.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with private sector initiatives, is responsible for ensuring that forest resources are developed, protected, conserved, and used sustainably to meet national demands for food, fodder, fuelwood and poles, employment creation and environmental protection. Forest inventories have been completed for the gazetted forest including the associated Sustainable Multiple Use Management Plan for that resource. The plan recommends the review of the National Forest Policy and Legislation and the valuation of the forest resource. To promote indigenous tree seedlings production and distribution to support national tree planting and woodlots, a National Tree Seed Centre Network linking Botswana to similar institutions in the Southern African Region has been constructed.

Net energy supply in Botswana shows that fuelwood accounts for 69.4 per cent, petroleum 19.2 per cent, coal 5.6 per cent, electricity 5.8 per cent, and solar energy 0.01 per cent. Of this, the rural population which accounts for 75 per cent of the 1.4 million people uses mainly fuelwood and paraffin and only 3 per cent of them uses electricity. Consequently, the availability of fuelwood has now reached a critical level in certain areas in the eastern Botswana.

The people most vulnerable to this shortage are generally those in the lower income bracket who are unable to purchase fuelwood and do not have the means by which fuelwood can be collected from areas beyond walking distance nor the means to purchase other fuel supplies such as paraffin, LPG gas or electricity where available. It is in view of this that the fuelwood (bio-energy) needs assessment, availability, trade, and its environmental impact assessment will be evaluated and proper programmes and projects to address these concerns developed and implemented. The Ministry of Agriculture will take the lead role and responsibility for biomass activities; however, the implementation will be shared with the Energy Affairs Division, NIR, Rural Industries Innovation Centre (RIIC), FAB and NCSA.

In line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Government of Botswana undertook a process in 1993 to review the education system. The process takes note of the environmental problems defined in the National Policy on Natural Resources Conservation and Development. The educational review process among other things is meant to enhance the environmental component of the school syllabuses. It is recognized that for children to appreciate the national and international efforts towards environmental management they ought to be educated on the same, made to participate in environmental activities and be moulded into the befitting custodians of the natural resources in the future. To this end, the UNDP has financed the Government of Botswana to design a National Environmental Education Strategy, which will form a basis for the environmental education action plan. The Environmental Education Strategy acknowledges that young people represent an important target group and should be regarded as a distinct and influential force in promoting environmental awareness.

For Botswana to develop its economy, it is important that trade policies should take into account environmental concerns. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has already taken measures to address some of the concerns. As a result of efforts of the Ministry, Botswana is a contracting member of the World Trade Organization, which is responsible for removal of all trade barriers and is also addressing environmental issues.

The Government of Botswana has put in place many policies and programmes aimed at poverty alleviation and these are implemented by different sectors at the national and district levels. Specific programmes aimed at enabling the poor to achieve sustainable livelihoods by improving access to resources include targeted schemes such as the Financial Assistance Policy - for income-generating projects which create employment, Arable Lands Development Programme - which assist resource-poor farmers to produce at subsistence level and raise income, and the Labour Intensive Public Works programmes - to relieve unemployment.

With the financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNSO), Botswana initiated the National Action Programme at the beginning of 1997.

The Ministry of Agriculture was identified as the National Focal Point for the Convention. Due to the breadth of issues to be addressed by the NAP process, a multisectoral Task Force which includes the NGOs was established to guide and support the National Focal Point.

With the assistance of the Task Force, the National Focal Point identified stakeholders who were then targeted for consultation and awareness creation.

At the beginning of the consultation process, one (1) seminar for the District Extension Teams, including NGOs, was held in Gaborone to raise their awareness about various forms of land degradation, desertification, the Convention and more importantly to assist the District Extension Teams to prepare for the awareness and consultation campaigns within their districts.

Eleven (11) seminars for community representatives were, thus, organized by the District Extension Teams in collaboration with the Task Force at the district level. Between 700 and 800 representatives of stakeholders attended these seminars.

Five (5) other seminars were held for special groups of stakeholders namely the District Authorities, Members of the House of Chiefs, Women, Youth and Media. The seminars were intended to secure the support of these important stakeholders and to identify the roles they can play in the formulation and implementation of the National Action Programme (NAP). Three (3) seminars were also held for the local NGOs to sensitize them and explore ways in which they can participate in the NAP process.

One of these seminars was held to develop networking arrangements and to identify an NGO Focal Point. The seminars generated recommendations which were tabled at the National Forum which was attended by about 180 participants including senior government officials from various ministries, NGOs, community representatives, donor agencies and some members of the private sector.

The National Forum itself identified seven priority areas of the NAP as follows:

Poverty alleviation and community empowerment, inter alia by promoting viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods, partnership building and networking between various stakeholders, capacity-building of the various stakeholders such as NGOs, etc.

Developing mechanisms for mobilizing and channelling financial resources for combating desertification, education and technology development and strengthening capacity for research, information collection, analysis and sustainable use and management of natural resources.

Two (2) regional forums were also conducted after the National Forum. These were attended by a wide range of stakeholders such as village communities, district authorities, NGOs, some MPs and Ministers. These forums were aimed at consolidating the recommendations of the various seminars into concrete programmes and creating partnerships with districts and communities through development and ownership of action plans.

In addition to efforts on consultation and awareness creation, a number of publicity activities have been undertaken. These are the production of a brochure on how to combat desertification, a video on how local people understand desertification, and a desertification Education Kit targeted at secondary schools. Three hundred (300) copies of this video have been reproduced for distribution to educational institutions and the districts. Seventy-three (73) of these videos have so far been distributed to all District Commissioners and District Officers (responsible for sub-districts), all Council Secretaries/City/Town Clerks, all Land Board Secretaries, Education Centres, and Regional Agricultural Offices. These videos will be used to support awareness creation by the recipient.

Five thousand (5,000) copies of the Desertification Education Kit have been reprinted and will soon be launched to the Ministry of Education for subsequent incorporation into the secondary schools curriculum.

Six community projects have been received and only three have been funded. These are Lehututu Natural Resource Management, Rakops Tree Planting, Masingwaneng and Matsilojoe Land Reclamation, Mokobeng and Mathathane woodlots. The three funded projects are Lehututu, Mokobeng and Rakops. These projects are at different stages of development. The rest are still being processed for funding. The National Focal Point continues to make follow-up to these community projects to support the community efforts.

It is now clear after the awareness and consultation phase that communities are interested in taking appropriate action. More attention is now being directed towards assisting those communities to formulate projects and to secure funding for them.

To strengthen the institutional framework of the NAP, a consultant was engaged to look into the possibility of establishing linkages and formulating a coordination mechanism. The consultant is yet to present the findings and recommendations to the Task Force. Arrangements are also advanced to institutionalize the NAP process. The NAP will be housed under the Soil Conservation section of the Ministry of Agriculture. Adjustments to accommodate the NAP in the National Development Plan 8 will also be made during the country's mid-term reviews.

The World Day to Combat Desertification was commemorated for the first time at Mathathane which is severely affected by desertification and drought in the eastern part of Botswana. A keynote address emphasizing drought preparedness, the use of indigenous technologies to fight desertification and adoption of alternative livelihoods was delivered by the Assistant Minister of Agriculture. This year's World Day to Combat Desertification will be commemorated for the second time in Botswana in the Kgalagadi district on 17 June 1999. This district is severely affected by land degradation. The theme of this commemoration is "Women's role in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification". Likewise, a keynote address emphasizing drought preparedness and the use of indigenous technologies to fight desertification will be given by a dignitary.

BURKINA FASO

The present document is a summary of the report produced as a result of a long process of consultation with the major stakeholders in the field of desertification control in Burkina Faso. Drafted in pursuance of the relevant articles of the Convention and in accordance with the provisions of decisions 11/COP.1 and 5/COP.2 of the Conference of the Parties, it is designed to inform the Parties to the Convention about the measures taken to implement the CCD in Burkina Faso.

For Burkina Faso, the Convention is both a starting point and an outcome:

- A starting point because it constitutes a new approach to the problem of desertification and its causes;
- An outcome because it was necessary to make enormous efforts to create awareness and undertake concrete actions, first at the national level, to prove that desertification was not inevitable, and then at the international level, to mobilize the international community to achieve the expected results, within the framework of environmental protection and preservation.

These efforts, but also their limits, are set out below.

I. Strategies and priorities formulated in development policies

1.1. Policies and/or strategies

In Burkina Faso, the national strategies for economic and social development were set out in the various Five-year Development Plans. These plans became People's Development Programmes (PPD) during the 1980s (the revolutionary period) and were then replaced by the rolling Three-year Programmes advocated under the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP).

The various national strategies for economic and social development aimed at:

- Securing food self-sufficiency and security;
- Protecting and safeguarding the environment in terms of the rational and sustainable management of natural resources;
- Increasing incomes.

1.2. The Plans

Four plans were worked out:

- *The National Action Plan to Combat Desertification*, formulated in response to the regional strategy to combat desertification proposed by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS);
- *The National Action Plan for the Environment (PANE)*: a strategic development plan devised at the urging of the World Bank, it takes into account the social and economic dimension of environmental issues and comprises five programmes;
- *The Strategic Plan for Agricultural Research (PSRA)*: adopted in October 1995, its purpose is to underpin the achievement of the socio-economic development objectives in the solution of environmental problems;
- *The Tropical Forest Action Plan (PAFT)*: initiated under the auspices of FAO, it constitutes an overall strategic framework

intended to redirect, intensify and harmonize traditional forestry policies and practices in order to lay the foundations for sustainable socio-economic development.

1.3. The programmes

The implementation of the PANE took the form of the drawing up and implementation of several programmes related to desertification control at three levels:

Agricultural development:

Two programmes were worked out:

- *The Structural Adjustment Programme for the Agricultural Sector (PASA)* aims at laying down the foundations for sustainable economic and social development in order to raise the living condition of the people in the medium term;
- *The National Programme for Land Management (PNGT)*: the land management approach has been a national option since its adoption in 1986; it is one of the basic elements of the sustainable development of the country. Initiated with technical and financial support from the World Bank, the PNGT has set seven targets, including efforts to persuade rural communities to assume responsibility for their own future and the integration of activities related to agriculture, forestry, livestock raising and fisheries into a system.

Forestry and water sector:

Four programmes were devised:

- *The National Forestry Development Programme (PNAF)*;
- *The National Village Forestry Programme (PNFV)*;
- *The Sahel Burkinabe Programme (PSB)*, a trial programme developed in 1986 in order to test the NPCD approaches;
- *The water-related programmes (the Village and Pasture Water Supply Programme, the Water Programme for Agriculture and the Water Resources Management and Protection Programme).*

Research:

The Strategic Plan for Agricultural Research (PSRA) covers the following areas: forestry development, genetic management of ligneous plants, forest seeds, soil fertility, saving energy and renewable energies.

National components of the CILSS Regional Programmes:

The strategies devised through CILSS have favoured the design of programmes such as the Improved Stoves Programme, the Gas Promotion Programme, the Research Programme, the Programme for Environmental Training and Information (PFIE).

II. Institutional measures for the implementation of the Convention

The National Council for Environmental Management (CONAGESE) is a structure set up under the law establishing the Environment Code which was adopted in January 1997. This forum for coordination enables environmental considerations to be integrated in the economic, social and cultural development process. It is composed of two bodies:

- The Conference of CONAGESE, which can set up specialized committees;
- The Permanent Secretariat of CONAGESE, established in September 1995 within the Ministry of Environment and Water.

2.1. Operational National Coordinating Body (NCB)

Legal status:

In response to the stipulations and wishes of the Convention, the Government appointed the Permanent Secretariat of CONAGESE (SP/CONAGESE) as the National Coordinating Body (NCB). A National Steering Committee (CNP) was established by inter-ministerial decree pending the setting up of the specialized committees.

Resources:

Two types of resources are available to the Permanent Secretariat of CONAGESE: support from the Government under the State budget and support from the bilateral or multilateral cooperation partners through specific projects.

As regards the State budget, at the time the present report was prepared, the support consisted of the provision to the Permanent Secretariat of 15 planners, five support staff, two administrative buildings, office equipment and supplies and the payment of running costs to an estimated total of US\$ 240,000 (salaries, annual rental value of premises, equipment and running costs).

As regards the cooperation partners, the contribution to the running of the Permanent Secretariat takes the form of institutional support projects presented in the table below:

No.	Project title	Starting date	Duration	Cost (dollars)	Sponsors
1	<u>*Project being implemented</u> National Strategy and Plan of Action in the area of biological diversity and country report to the Conference of the Parties	01/1998	1 year	230 977	GEF/UNDP
2	Desertification control measures	1997	5 years	1 330 000	JALDA/JAPAN
3	Sahel Burkinabe Programme	09/1997	3 years	12 000 000	GTZ
4	Project for support to the Sahel Burkinabe Programme	11/1997	5 years	4 872 214	UNDP/UNCDF/GVT
5	Empowering Burkina Faso to formulate its first national communication on climatic changes	01/1998	2 years	233 810	UNDP/GEF
6	Project "Support for the process of the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification" (NAP/CD)	01/1998	2 years	<u>1 383 774</u> 480 000 200 000 4 000 34 500 67 740 45 000 112 800 371 500 9 214 60 000	GVT IFAD CILSS SE/CCD Netherlands CIDA IDRC UNDP France Denmark
7	Project "Institutional support for SP/CONAGESE Phase III"	12/1998	1 year	117 073	Denmark GVT
8	Transitional phase of the project "Environmental legislation and institutions in Africa"	03/1999	6 months	76 000	Netherlands
9	<u>*Project being negotiated</u> Project for institutional support to the CONAGESE Permanent Secretariat for private sector capacity-building in the area of environment and environmental documentation centre	09/1998	3 years	678 000	Belgium GVT
10	Drafting of the initial communication of Burkina Faso on the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climatic Change	06/1999	2 years	272 000	Denmark GVT

Intersectoral and pluridisciplinary character: composition and mode of operation

The Permanent Secretariat of CONAGESE is essentially led by eight forestry executives. Expertise also comes from other Ministries such as those of Agriculture (2), Water (2), Livestock-raising (2), Communication (1). Thus the Secretariat can draw on skills in Environmental Law, Environment and Development, Women and Development, Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock-raising, Health Engineering, Water and Sanitation, Diplomacy and International Law, Environmental Impact Studies, Environmental Education.

Status of data and information

The Permanent Secretariat of CONAGESE, through its environmental policy and planning division, guides and coordinates the activities of the National Programme for the Management of Environmental Information (PNGIM).

This programme cooperates with a network of 15 partner institutions which produce and/or use environmental information. Their achievements include the National Nomenclature for the production of land use maps, Topographic Databases, databases of localities in Burkina, inventories of classified forests, etc.

2.2. Institutional, legislative and regulatory framework for desertification control, coherent

The process of analysing the institutional and legislative frameworks for desertification control in Burkina Faso dates back to 1990 with the holding of the workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the National Desertification Control Programme (PNLCD). This workshop helped to clarify the quantitative and qualitative aspect of the concept of environment, to view more clearly the measures aimed at giving producers more secure access to natural resources and finally to highlight the need for the country to set up a programme of institutional and legislative capacity-building in the field of the environment.

These various strategic orientations led to practical measures at two levels:

Institutional level:

These practical measures relate to:

- The start of a decentralization process;
- Spelling out the tasks of the Ministry of the Environment;
- Establishment of the National Council for Environmental Management (CONAGESE);

- Establishment or installation of specific structures for the implementation of the Convention (National Steering Committee and specialized machinery, machinery for coordination with NGOs and cooperation partners).

Legislative and regulatory level:

A programme for the drafting and/or revision of a number of legislative texts relating to natural resources management was instituted with a view to giving producers more secure access to them.

- The law instituting agrarian and land reform;
- The law establishing the Environment Code, adopted on 30 January 1997;
- The Forestry Code, adopted on 31 January 1997;
- The Mining Code;
- The Water Code, which is being prepared;
- The Grazing Code, which is being prepared.

2.3. National Plan of Action integrated in the National Plan for Economic and Social Development

The Burkina National Action Plan document was in the form of a preliminary draft when this report was written. This preliminary draft is to be validated in project form during the second session of the National Forum scheduled from 28 June to 1 July 1999.

- The harmonization of the NAP with the other strategic frameworks;
- The articulation of the NAP with the national, regional and local approaches;
- The articulation of the NAP with the PASR for West Africa.

III. The participatory process in support of the process of the implementation of the NAP (see table on page IV)

The process of implementation of the Convention in Burkina Faso was divided into three phases:

- The setting up of a mechanism for partnership between the various stakeholders;
- The drafting and adoption of the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification;
- The implementation of the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification.

In view of their specific objectives, an implementation strategy was drawn up for each of the three phases. Concerning the process of participation by the various stakeholders, the strategy documents prepared as part of the implementation of the first and second phases (phases covered by the present report) provided for two types of activity:

- Information and awareness creation activities based on a communication strategy;
- Coordination with the stakeholders in two forms: for each category of stakeholder at the national level and in a decentralized manner at the village, department, province, region and national levels.

**IV. Process of consultation with cooperation partners
(developed country parties)**

(see table No. 1 attached)

V. Measures taken or planned to improve the economic environment, the institutional framework and knowledge of the phenomenon of desertification

These measures took the form of:

- Evaluation of the actions taken in the past and compilation of an inventory of ongoing projects;
- Capacity-building: the major role of the NAP is to encourage, promote and stimulate the process of participatory and decentralized planning, i.e., the process of preparation of Local Development Programmes (LDPs).

In addition to these measures, five national desertification control capacity-building projects are being implemented or negotiated with the technical and financial cooperation partners. Finally, measures are being taken to improve the economic environment and knowledge of the phenomenon of desertification through two thematic studies on the state of desertification and natural resources and the state of poverty and the behaviour of populations towards natural resources.

**VI. Financial resources allocated to support
the implementation of the Convention**

In addition to existing funds, a special fund to support the implementation of the Convention was established with the backing of Canada. On the basis of this experience, a National Fund for Desertification Control was set up.

VII. Review and evaluation of the benchmarks and indicators used to measure the progress made

A research and action group on monitoring and evaluation was set up as part of the implementation of the Convention to assist the NCB to define and/or adapt the tools for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and impact of the activities carried out or planned as part of the NPA/CD.

With the assistance of CILSS and OSS, this group organized a workshop to evaluate the NAP process in June 1998. The tools used were those of the grid of indicators for the implementation of the CCD. The group is continuing its work on the development of impact indicators with the assistance of CILSS and OSS.

CAMEROON

I. Introduction

Part of the territory of Cameroon in the Sudano-Sahelian zone faces drought with its adverse impacts on the environment.

Elsewhere in the country, it takes the form of a severe lack of rainfall, with consequences which are no less severe since the colonial era. Cameroon has made efforts to combat drought and desertification one of its areas of focus.

Its concerns in this area have progressively been translated into action in the economic and social development plans and in projects using variable methodological approaches depending on ecological fashion:

- The approach in the 1977 United Nations Plan emphasizing the integration of the desertification control dimension in projects starting with the Maroua seminar in 1988
- The Rio 1992 approach in Agenda 21 emphasizing the integration of environmental and sustainable development consideration in the National Plan for Environmental Management (PNGE)

In pursuance of decision 11/COP.1 adopted at the first Conference of the Parties to the above-mentioned Convention, inviting African member countries to provide information to the forthcoming COP 3 through a national report on progress made in drawing up the plan of action on the implementation of this Convention, Cameroon embarked on the preparation of the present document, which, in the fields of planning and strategy - biodiversity - environment - institutional and legal framework - identifies achievements and difficulties encountered throughout the process and emphasizes the future prospects.

The preparation of this document involved a nucleus of five (5) multidisciplinary experts around the focal point with contributions from four (4) national consultants from the ministerial and academic institutions with technical assistance from the consultant expert from the

Convention secretariat on efforts to combat desertification. It is subject to validation by a seminar-workshop gathering together 22 resource persons and experts.

II. Status of the process of development of efforts to combat desertification in Cameroon before and after ratification of the Convention on the subject: principal achievements, difficulties encountered and solutions or prospects

2.1 Strategies and Plans

2.1.1 Strategies in existing national plans in the other socio-economic fields

(a) Achievements

Following its accession to independence (1961-1991) Cameroon founded its development policy on the system of five-year plans based on the approach in the 1977 United Nations Plan, emphasizing the following environmental orientations:

Vth Plan (1982-1991) and Vith Plan (1986-1991): reflection on the state of the environment in the field of the negative effects of desertification (industrial pollution, impacts on the ecology of the rural environment, over-exploitation of land, silvo-agro-pastoral imbalance) by means of the preparation of a general inventory of those areas

- PNGE (1996) and the National Forest Action Plan (PAFN) (1993): diagnosis of environmental considerations and setting of overall objectives together with several project sheets and a basic legal provision in the environmental laws of 1996 and the forestry law of 1994 with a view to bringing desertification under control in the northern part and halting its advance towards the humid zone in southern Cameroon

- Under the project "Drawing up of the Environment Code of Cameroon" (March 1997 interministerial report): scientific and legal norms to be collected or developed in the desertification sector in pursuance of the relevant convention

(b) Difficulties or problems encountered

- Poor guidance concerning efforts to combat desertification in the various existing plans as a result of the lack of coordinated assistance from the donors

- Belated refusal of Cameroon's application to join CILSS following ratification of the CCD on the grounds that it did not fully fall within the Sudano-Sahelian zone, delaying Cameroon's dealings with the Executive Bureau of CCD and slowing down the process

- Projects for the application of the guidelines which are isolated and not properly coordinated because of the lack of a defined institutional framework in the PNGE and the PAFN and in the earlier plans

(c) Solutions

In order to have clear and consistent guidelines and implementation projects which are in keeping with national concerns and meet the conditions laid down by donors, specifically COP 3:

- Prepare the present report on progress with the process of drawing up of the NAP and lodge it with the CCD secretariat for COP 3
- Draw up the terms of reference of the NAP on the basis of the recommendations of COP 3 and secure funds to draw up the NAP and the feasible effective projects against drought in Cameroon

2.1.2 Strategy of the plans in efforts to combat desertification in various fields

2.1.2.1 Biodiversity

2.1.2.1.1 Forests

(a) Achievements

- Legislation on existing forests from the colonial era to 1994. Plans, programmes and projects for regeneration and reforestation from the time of independence up to the economic crisis and the SAP
- National Seminar in Maroua on desertification in 1988, strict recommendations on the need to draw up a national action plan on desertification incorporating environmental preoccupations (1997 United Nations Plan approach)
- PNGE and environmental law including guidelines on desertification in the spirit of the CCD
- Bodies for applying forestry policy in existence from 1970 to the present

(b) Difficulties

- Economic slowdown or near-halt to plans, programmes and projects as a result of the economic crisis and SAP constraints
- Failure to take account of the social (human) factor
- High cost and poor follow-up of reforestation
- Poor exploitation of plantations

- Species selected for reforestation are of no interest to the local populations and are regarded as belonging to others (the State and ecologists)

- Lack of a zoning plan in the northern part of Cameroon which would enable management initiatives in the field to be better oriented

(c) Solutions

- Initiation of thinking on the incompatibility of the forestry and agroforestry plans (PAFN and NPA) and the SAP, which have divergent aims: conservation/development and restriction of development

- Redefinition of the orientations and objectives of the projects included in the PAFN

- Implementation of the programmes of activities set out under the special forest development fund, which provides for new plantings of 1,000 hectares a year

2.1.2.1.2 Fauna

(a) Achievements

- Existence of a colonial administration on fauna (cf. establishment of the national parks)

- Existence of the different plans and instruments governing fauna and the commercial sector

- Development of pastureland through a participatory approach process, with involvement of local people

- Education and awareness creation among local people as regards fauna

- Development of veterinary medicine

- Diversification of traditional administrative services, NGOs, projects (GEF), parastatal companies (SODEPA)

- Development of hunting zones - Special Fund for the Development of Fauna which has become operational

(b) Problems

- Low level of support by local people for the policy of sound management of fauna

- Difficulty in changing the habits of livestock raisers concerning rangeland development

- Inconsistent existing projects
- Level of education among local people incompatible with the management initiatives
- Livestock raisers very hard to reach
- Lack of water obliging herds to travel long distances, thereby causing disruptions in ecosystems
- High cost of ranch construction

(c) Solutions

- Effective participation by local people
- Financing ranch construction work
- Awareness creation among local people
- Promotion of literacy among livestock raisers to make it easier to convey the principles of rangeland management

2.1.2.1.3 Agriculture, livestock raising, fisheries

(a) Achievements

The agricultural sector, which is crucial in the Cameroonian economy, has recorded the following achievements:

- Several agricultural programmes in the various five-year plans
- A multitude of technical skills
- Availability of arable land
- Traditional administrative structures for research, NGOs, GICs, development corporations
- Positive attitude of the population and availability of labour
- Existence of a favourable legal framework
- New agricultural policy based on general liberalization, stimulating an increase in output

(b) Problems

- Difficulties in preserving foodstuffs because of a long dry season

- Limited farming activity because of a short rainy season
- Leaf-eating locusts, migratory birds and pachyderms invade agricultural plantations
- Lack of coordination of projects in the guidance to farmers
- Delay and lack of sustained funding of projects and limited cultivated areas because of the economic crisis and constraints stemming from the SAP
- Lack of and/or poor evaluation of projects carried out
- Inadequate guidance to farming populations
- Lack of impact studies for most projects
- Low incomes of local people

(c) Solutions

- Incorporation of the "management and sustainable conservation of natural resources" dimension
- Develop techniques for the conservation of appropriate foodstuffs and low-season crops
- Intensify efforts to combat various crop infestations
- Institute proper project coordination
- Strengthen managerial capabilities
- Comply with project funding deadlines
- Evaluate each project on completion
- Strengthen guidance for farming populations
- Facilitate access to agricultural credit
- Initiate a review of the incompatibility of SAP constraints with the natural resources conservation plans (PAFN)

2.1.2.2 Environment

2.1.2.2.1 Water

(a) Achievements

The various plans include guidelines which prompt a variety of projects that incorporate a desertification control component:

- Underground Water Project in the northern region (resource inventory, economic feasibility of resource mobilization) 1975
- FSAR.1. and FSAR.2 project
- Boreholes (Government + BM)
- Borehole and well-drilling projects (Government + Islamic Development Bank)
- Dam project in Mont Mandara (about 10)
- Boreholes and wells by NGOs, CARE Cameroun and OCSD (Organisation Canadienne pour la solidarité du développement).
- Diocésain pour le développement (CDD) of Maroua for wells and canals (artificial recharge of surface water)
- Hydro-agricultural dam at Maga
- Hydroelectric and agricultural dam at Lagdo
- Retention dam to supply the urban centres and in the Mayo Oulo

(b) Difficulties encountered throughout the process

- Poor quality of plans and programmes for the geographical distribution of the initiatives to combat desertification, failure to finalize project financing because of donors' budgetary constraints
- Low involvement of local people in project design and follow-up
- Inappropriate institutional frameworks

(c) Solutions

- Develop an integrated approach to water resource use (agriculture, stock-raising, etc.)
- Develop a participatory approach with the local people as target No. 1
- Ensure the best possible water management
- Conduct an exhaustive study of potentialities
- Develop local capabilities, notably in technical matters
- Protection and restoration of soils, anti-erosion techniques and crop techniques in agroforestry
- Training of local people in water resources management

2.1.2.2.2 Climate

In the field of management of the phenomenon of climate, Cameroon's achievements are as follows:

- establishment of a national meteorological network since the German colonial era on climate
- establishment of research facilities on climate in the universities and in the research facilities
- Account has been taken of these two previous operations in the development projects
- Cameroon's membership of the organizations, signing of the international legal instruments
- Existence of three major State theses on the climates of Cameroon and various dissertations
- Implementation of a research project on estimating precipitation using satellites

(b) Problems encountered

- Deterioration of the network of meteorological observations
- Abolition of certain research facilities as a result of the economic crisis
- Lack of enthusiasm and motivation as a result of the economic crisis on the part of the staff of the meteorological services
- Lack of consistency in following up research activities and lack of national coordination machinery
- Poor dissemination of results
- Poor archiving of data
- Climatological concerns are ignored in development projects

(c) Solutions

- Organize a national weather watch
- Provide the ministries responsible for handling climatic and environmental problems with adequate resources to observe and study the climate
- Encourage research in the area

- Possess modern data archives and a computerized data management system
- Regularly disseminate the results of data analysis
- Devise methods for evaluating the impacts of climate and climate trends on various socio-economic activities
- Identify sectors vulnerable to climate variations
- Undertake comprehensive activities relating to drought and desertification

2.1.2.2.3 Energy, Health, Education, Trade, Economic Planning, Energy

(a) Achievements

In the field of efforts to combat desertification, several achievements exist in the area of the planning and use of national energy resources. Several projects and programmes have been drawn up and implemented with a view to the protection of plant cover and the use of the region's energy potential. These projects and programmes concern in particular:

The use of biomass through the transfer of the surplus which exists in the forest region in the south of the country to the northern region, in order to preserve plant cover; research and development and the promotion of improved stoves with the aim of optimizing the use of biomass; the development and promotion of alternative energies: specifically wind and solar energy, which offer considerable potential in this region threatened by desertification.

(b) Difficulties

The difficulties encountered include, among others, a disorganized biomass subsector in the context of the local shortage of this resource; inadequate promotion of hydroelectric, solar and wind energy together with inadequate awareness and participation on the part of the populations concerned.

(c) Solutions

- Incorporate in plans and projects the components of public health and education promotion and trade as alternatives which will stimulate efforts to combat desertification

2.1.2.3 Institutional and legal framework

2.1.2.3.1 Institutional framework

2.1.2.3.1.1 Categories of socio-institutional actors

- Existence of institutions which were originally limited and progressively proliferated and became operational to handle efforts to combat desertification from the colonial era to the present day

2.1.2.3.1.2 CCD coordinating body

(a) Achievements

- Before the convention, coordination was handled by certain institutions (Ministry of Planning) then transferred to the Ministry of the Environment and Forests
- Following ratification of the convention, establishment of a Focal Point in MINEF to coordinate the implementation of efforts to combat desertification
- Provision for desertification control in the MINEF (SPE) organizational chart in 1998

(b) Problems

- Lack of an element relating to study on the analysis of the institutional framework on efforts to combat desertification in the PNGE as in other priority sectors of the plan of which the implementation of the convention in question forms part with provision for a separate national action plan
- Delay in acquiring resources and the start-up of the Focal Point
- Lack of a dossier on this subject (terms of reference) to persuade donors
- Failure to translate the recommendations of the Maroua seminar into a bankable project to take advantage of the benefits offered by the CCD
- Waste of time in the negotiations on Cameroon's application to join CILSS, which was finally turned down on the grounds of its status as a semi-desert country (with more forests than deserts)

(c) Solutions

- Study and analyse the existing institutional framework and determine its harmonization to follow-up efforts to combat desertification as is done in the PNGE in relation to the other sectors
- Rapidly provide the focal point with facilities (strengthening of institutional capabilities) in order to embark on the preparation of the NAP
- Central African subregional integration as regards efforts to combat desertification, in order to take advantage of the benefits offered by the regional programmes

2.1.2.4 Legislative and regulatory framework

2.1.2.4.1 Laws

(a) Achievements

Existence of an environment law including a fundamental provision on efforts to combat desertification, as well as other laws covering the related sectors (Agriculture, Forests, Water, Energy, etc.), several international conventions and agreements on gifts since 1994 on efforts to combat desertification reflected in laws and regulations (drought, biodiversity, climate).

2.1.2.4.2 Regulations, provisions for implementing laws and organizational charts

(a) Achievements

In this context:

- provision for the drawing up of a decree to apply the environmental law with regard to efforts to combat desertification under way in the framework of the Environment Code Preparation Project, as a priority activity connected to the application of the convention in question
- an arsenal of regulations governing the separate projects and institutions, from the five-year development plans of the 1960s to the new environmental framework (PNGE)

(b) Problems associated with laws and regulations

All the existing texts have remained on paper, with little or no practical effect, as a result of the economic crisis and the SAP constraints which are incompatible with the various conservation plans (PAFN, PNGE), and potentially the national action plan (NAP) to combat desertification, rigid conditionalities of the lending agencies concerning the establishment of the MINEF machinery entrusted with the environment including efforts to combat desertification, which have for a long time delayed the application of the convention on desertification.

(c) Solutions

Implementation of the project for the drawing up of the Environment Code (instrument for application, framework law on environmental management, desertification control dimension, with the rapid assistance of the donors one of which has already been secured (UNDP and UNSO) and others identified by sector.

Organization of a forum on efforts to combat desertification to discuss the problems of the incompatibility of the various plans for environmental management with the SAP.

2.1.3 Methodological approach to the development of the technical programmes and functional projects, past and/or current

2.1.3.1 Diagnostic method for past experience

(a) Achievements

For the drawing up of its five-year development plans, Cameroon set up committees composed of multidisciplinary resource persons supported by external technical assistance where necessary

(b) Problems

Public participation in the process was limited to the views of deputies or the members of the assemblies representing the public in question

(c) Solutions

Cameroon adapted very quickly to the participatory approach (seminar/workshop for coordination broadened to include the private sector) and will endeavour to make this achievement a permanent feature during the drawing up of its NAP.

2.1.3.2 Method for recording, adapting and integrating projects under way in the NAP process

For the development of its plans and programmes, the method of data collection and analysis used to date by Cameroon is:

the exploitation of the macro-economic aggregates developed by the national statistical and national accounts services

use of national and international consultants

exploitation of the national, foreign and private databases

III. Prospects for the national action plan to combat desertification in Cameroon after the third Conference of the parties and submission of the present report

3.1 Support from donors and subregional cooperation

3.1.1 Support from donors

(a) Achievements

- The United Nations Office UNSO contributed to the Maroua seminar in 1988 on desertification
- UNDP concluded a memorandum of agreement in 1998 and a gift agreement on the preparation of the NAP in Cameroon

- Cameroon is a member of the subregional organizations (CBLT, CDEAC, CEMAC) with the immediate neighbours with which it shares this ecological scourge of drought (Chad, CAR, Nigeria, Gabon, Republic of Congo)

(b) Problems

Rejection of Cameroon's application to join CILSS to share the benefits of the subregional programmes in the context of the experiment (CILSS/ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, UMA indicated in the drafting guide).

(c) Solution

As proposed by the CCD COP 1, Cameroon plans to exploit the opportunity offered to consult its neighbours which are members of CEMAC and which are often represented in the COP of the CCD to encourage the integration of the desertification control dimension in the subregional programmes of that institution, so as to enable the States to benefit from the advantages of the member States. The States of the forest zone should curb the advance of the desert through conservation and sustainable forest management.

3.1.2 Subregional cooperation

(a) Achievements

Cameroon is a party to the Convention and is entitled to the benefits associated with the Convention's objectives set out in article 1 to secure control over this phenomenon in its three northern provinces which have been hard hit by the drought.

IV. Conclusion and recommendations

4.1 Conclusion

In the light of the above, it may be concluded that:

Cameroon embarked on the drafting of its plan of action to combat desertification well before the Convention in its development plans and in the environmental management and forestry action plans including a desertification control component.

- By drawing on the ecological approach, by using the methodological approaches, the resources and the assistance appropriate to each period
- The approaches or strategies and the areas demanded by the Convention in article 1 were not, it is true, taken into account for lack of the drafting guide for national reports which had only just been published

- Starting with the submission of the present report to the CCD secretariat for COP 3 and after its validation by the national workshop in mid-June 1999, Cameroon will embark on the preparation of its NAP with all the assistance that could be wished from the international and subregional community

4.2 Recommendations

- The solutions proposed above for each difficulty are to be taken into account by the CCD secretariat as integral parts of Cameroon future prospects in its commitment to draw up its NAP.

To consider without delay the final report on the actions and activities on:

- the presentation of the Cameroonian NAP to its subregional bilateral partners and donors in a forum for national coordination and its need for support (strengthening of the institutional capabilities of the Coordinating Unit)
- as well as the activities related to the above-mentioned actions: organization of the national forum together with the UNSO Office and the CCD secretariat
- preparation of the terms of reference of the NAP

Participation by the Cameroonian delegation in COP 3

To consider these actions and programmes as priority objectives for Cameroon.